The Bible & Daily Living

Power and authority

INTRODUCTION

We may think we have witnessed power and authority at its best in our modern world. After all, this nuclear age has seen the greatest strides in technological advancement humankind has ever known. The medical discoveries have helped lengthen human life and relieve many of its ills. We have also witnessed tremendous advancement in agriculture, so much so that our country alone is able to feed masses at home and abroad. So, when we talk about power, we can point to our country as the most powerful nation on earth.

But there is a power and authority far greater than we can behold on this pinhead planet called earth. All earthly power is subject to the power and authority of Christ. In fact, all power on earth has its origination in Christ.

When we read Mark's Gospel we encounter the authority of Christ over nature, disease, and evil. Mark is in one respect a "Book of Miracles" because it points to the power of Jesus over all powers both good and evil.

This week's lesson will strengthen our insight of Christ as the Savior who came to meet the needs of his people.

POWER OVER NATURE [Mark 4:35-41]

Jesus was not a master of trickery. It was never his intention to entertain or dazzle the minds of those who witnessed his extraordinary powers. Every miracle story in Mark testifies to Jesus' authority over every situation. The miracle of calming the angry seas points to his authority over the natural order. The disciples were astonished. "...What manner of man is this, that even the wind and sea obey him?"

On board Jesus sleeps peacefully in the hull of the vessel, unbothered by the tempest raging around him. Jesus was a man who was calm under pressure. While battles raged around him he was at ease in the center of his being.

Life presents us with challenging and fear-provoking hazards. Sometimes we may feel as though we will crumble in the face of disaster. Faith, however, is the only remedy for facing our fears.

POWER OVER DISEASE [Mark 5:1-20,25,34]

Jesus encountered people with dehumanizing and debilitating disease, but no one, no matter how sick or afflicted, was ever turned away. We can learn a good lesson from Jesus, namely that we are called to minister to those who are most needy.

The above references describe Jesus' encounter with a demoniac and a woman with a hemorrhage. She was pathetic in that she had gone to every physician available to her, but none were able to help. Then she met the Great Physician who healed her illness and forgave her sin.

POWER OVER DEATH [Mark 521-24, 35-43]

Jesus also exercised power over death. We know that death has no face but the face of loved ones who die and leave us. To us mortals death seems so final and oftentimes so unfair. We do not understand death because we've never died before.

Jesus faced death head on. He was not intimidated by its power or threat. In the above reference Jesus resusitates a young girl who was by medical definition legally dead. To the astonishment of the onlookers Jesus gave back life to a child.

Class members can discuss the following questions:

°Describe a time in your life when you felt Christ performed a miracle.

°What are your feelings and beliefs about miracles?

°Do you believe miracles happen in this modern age of ours?

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

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Church calendar

Conference planned

Regular church conference will be held at the Springfield Baptist Church, Saturday, March 17 at 5 p.m. All members are asked to please be present.

Gospel music program

The Gospel Mountain Men, a group that performs traditional and folk country gospel music, will present a program of music at Yellow Branch Baptist Church this Sunday at 7 p.m.

The public is invited, and a nursery will be provided for children.

Anniversary slated

The Young Adult Choir of the Springfield Baptist Church will celebrate their anniversary Sunday, March 18, at 3 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited to.

Holds Mass

The Catholic Church holds Mass every Friday at 12 noon and on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Services noted

Worship service will be held at the First Baptist Church every second Sunday night at 7 p.m.

Movie slated

The Deliverance Church of Christ will be presenting the gospel motion picture entitled "Yeaps of the Beast" on March 31 at 7 p.m. and April 1 at 4 :30 p.m. at the church located on Rt. 60, Buckingham County. Everyone is invited to attend - admission free. For more information call 933-8365, R.J. Patton, Pastor.

Times-Virginian

WORSHIP

Walker's Presbyterian Church

One of the oldest in Presbytery

By FRANCES ABBITT

Walker's Presbyterian Church, with a membership today of 45 is one of the 12 oldest Presbyterian churches east of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Under the supervision of the Blue Ridge Presbytery, Walker's Church, located in the Hixburg community of Appomattox County, is on the field with the Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church in the Town of Appomattox. The term "field" refers to one or more churches having the same pastor.

The earliest reference to Walker's Presbyterian Church is found in a letter of the late Rev. Samuel Davies, quoted in a book, **History Of Cub Creek Church**, written by a Miss Gaines. According to the book, Davies, in 1755, led daily services in Cub Creek Church, with a final communion service attended by approximately 2000 people, of whom 200 were communicants. He wrote, "In this great multitude were numbers of people who came from Buffalo and Walker's Church, Hat Creek and Concord to visit friends and relatives of a kindred church.

So, we know the church was in existence as early as July 1755.

According to records it seems as if the church may have begun as an Episcopal church taking its name from the family of Walker, who may have given the land on which the first church was erected, as there was already standing a church called Walker's when Dr. James Walker gave additional land in 1802.

The first pastor at Walker's Presbyterian Church was the Rev. Richard Sankey, a memorable name in the Presbyterian denomination.

According to writings of the Rev. William Calhoun, uncle of James Calhoun, elder of Walker's Church in 1852, Sankey was a man with an unblemished reputation. In describing him Calhoun wrote, "Sankey was a very old man when I first knew him....... small, extremely bowlegged; when his feet would be together, his knees would be six inches apart. He wore a wig and bands (the linin collar with two pendant strips, worn by 17th and 18th century clergymen).....After announcing his text and dividing his subject, he made remarks on each subject and spent [illegible] time in fortifying the doctrine by other passaged of scripture, to which he would turn and read, often from his Hebrew Bible, which he would carry into the pulpit, giving the English version, however."

Records show that the next minister to serve at Walker's Presbyterian Church was the Rev. Archibald McRobert. He was a Scotchman; his first charge, after emigrating to Virginia, being Dale Parish, in Chesterfield County where "his outspoken American sympathies got him into trouble with the authorities along about 1774."

It seems he had been in court before, on the charge of using hymns and poems instead of the Psalms of David in his church services. He did, however, clear himself in the eyes of the "higher-ups" in the Presbyterian Church and the law before becoming pastor of Walker's Church.

Following the pastorate of McRobert, there was a long period during which Walker's Church is listed as vacant or as being supplied by various ministers who were never actually pastor of the church. Possibly, for that reason, the church did not grow but actually declined in membership. Then in the period between 1787 and 1788 something happened, a great revival took place.

The Rev. Drury Lacy, was trustee and acting president of Hampden-Sydney College, moderator of the General Assembley of the Presbyterian Church in 1809 at Philadelphia and a powerful man. He played a great part in the revival resulting in growth and change.

It is significant that the date of this revival which began at Hampden-Sydney College, coincides with the date that Walker's Free Church (free meaning independent of any denominational connection) became a Presbyterian Church. At that same time, Dr. James Walker, Dick Holland and his wife Martha made a deed dated 1802. This deed conveyed for $5.00 and "for the further consideration of the love, affection, and regard which the said Dr. Walker, Dick Holland and Martha Holland has and bears for religion a track of two acres," on which Walker's Church now stands.

A second revival, 1901-02, was, according to records, less widespread than that of 1787-88 but had a profound effect on congregations in Albermarle, Prince Edward and Charlotte Counties particularly. Many converts looking in vain to the Presbyterian Church to provide their churches with ministers, turned to other denominations which were ready to supply pastors and so were lost to the Presbyterian church. At any rate it was at this time that Walkers Church became a Union Church.

Bishop Early of the Methodist Church wrote the following in his diary under the date June 1807. "Went to Walker's Church, had a happy time with the Venable family. Preached on the hope of a Christian and the commandments of God. God pity the people there! Three or four denominations preach there. Some preach Jesus, and some preach for the devil of contentions. A few Christians, many hypocrites. Some backsliders. Some poor formal professors that say they hope they have got religion. God pity them!"

Walker's Presbyterian Church, believed to be originally Episcopalian, became practically Presbyterian under the Rev. Archibald McRobert in the 1780s after having been "free" or independent for a number of years; then a Union Church and finally an organized Presbyterian Church.

The years flew by......sometimes there was growth and at other times a period of standing still or even of decline, but there continued to be a Walker's Presbyterian Church.

It seems there are no available records of the ministers who came and went or even of the activities of the church. But it did continue to open its doors to the people of that community, providing a place of worship, or study and prayer. Today, still with a very small membership Walker's Church is an active church with a new minister, the Rev. James Ferry coming in April to pastor Walker's Church and Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Peter Hale left 18 months ago to accept the pastorate of a church in North Carolina.

About eight years ago, Walker's Presbyterian Church got a facelift when members pitched in to do some remodeling. They refinished pews, tore down old plaster and replaced it with sheetrock. Woodwork around windows and doors was taken down, refinished and replaced. Stained glass replaced the clear windows. Even the piano, altar and pulpit stand were refinished. A heat pump for heating and air conditioning completed the renovation.

Today there is an active Women Of The Church program at Walker's Presbyterian Church. At this time they are in the process of having a white brick stand with the name of the church erected in the church yard. This women's group participates in the White Cross Program, Birthday Offering Program and other various church programs.

Walker's Presbyterian Church is involved in the "Hunger, 2 Cents A Meal" Program.

An active youth group meets with the youth from the Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church each Sunday evening.

Walker's Presbyterian Church.....its roots go a long way back and a lot of the records in-between are missing, but it is still an active church, a vital part of the Hixburg Community.

March 14 - 17

Revival slated

Revival services will be held at the Church of God of Prophecy in Appomattox County March 14-17, at 7:30 each night.

The Rev. Ralph Minnix will be guest speaker for the revival services.

The church is located on Road 1010 in Appomattox County. The Rev. Allen Hawley, pastor, invites the public to attend.

Sullivan will speak to area Catholics

Walter F. Sullivan, bishop of the Diocese of Richmond, will speak at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church on Monday, March 19 at 7 p.m. on "Peacemaking In a Nuclear Age."

Bishop Sullivan is nationally known for his interpretation and advocacy of the U. S. Bishop's Pastoral Letter on War and Peace, which is a major document produced by the United States Catholic Conference on the Morality of War and Nuclear Armament.

The public is invited to attend.

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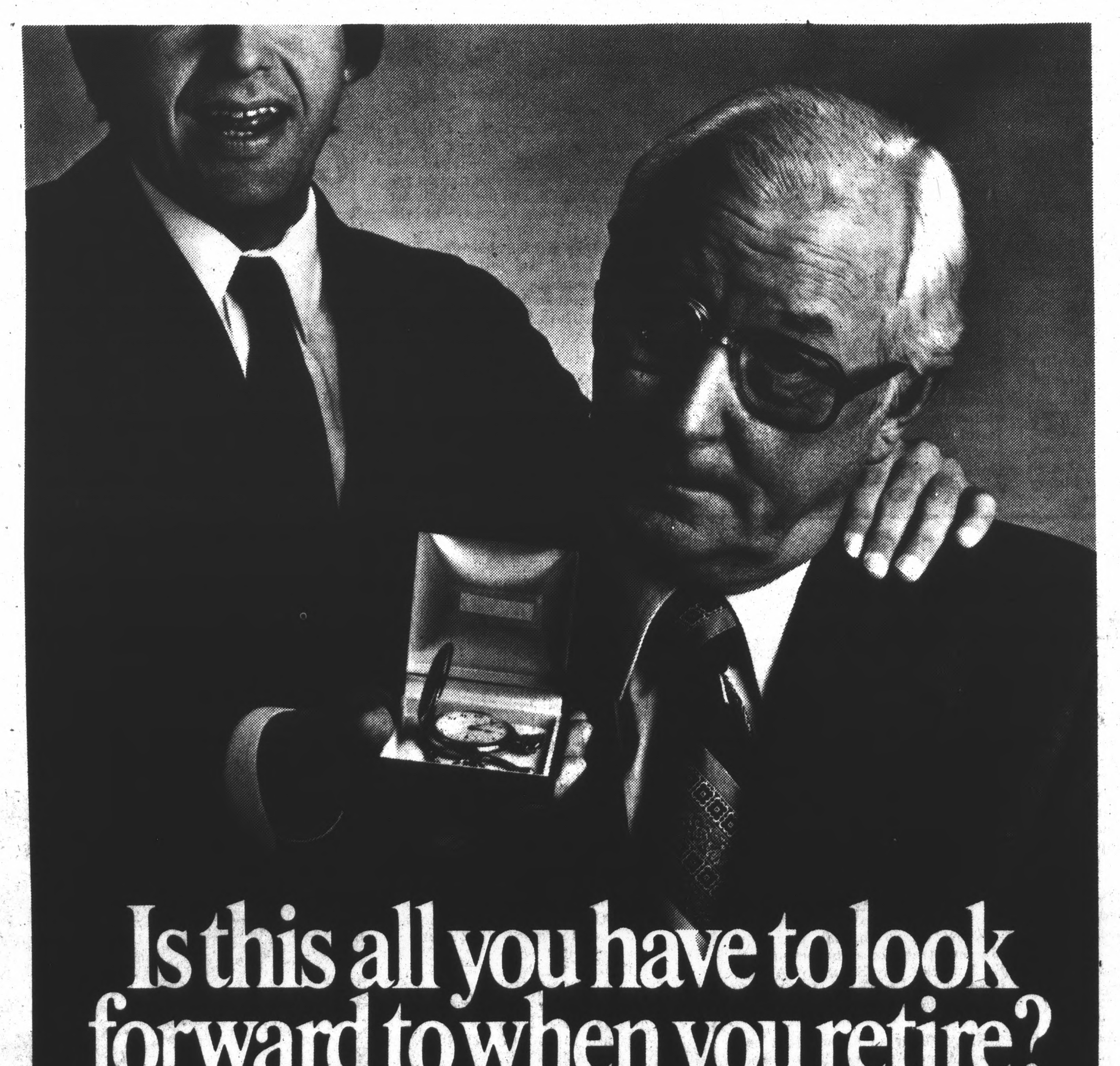

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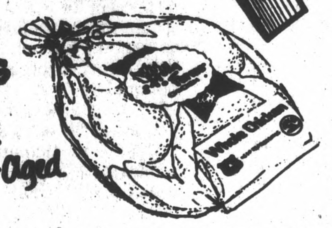

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